The Perſon being under Misfortune obliges her to take this Method.

THE

Heavenly Meſſenger;

OR, THE

CHILD's plain Pathway

TO

ETERNAL LIFE.

You that are Parents far and near,
Beſtow one Penny on your Children dear,
That they may underſtand the Laws of GOD,
And walk the righteous Path that Saints have trod.

For if they practice and keep it in Mind,
What they within this little Book will find;
That may be done with very little Pain,
Which will be for their everlaſting Gain.

*** *Pray keep it clean till call'd for.*

The HEAVENLY MESSENGER, &c.

MR. *James Worthy*, living in the City of *Norwich* in the County of *Norfolk*, was a Gentleman of a very good Eſtate, and in great Eſteem for his Piety and Charity; his whole Delight being in the Service of God, and doing good to his Neighbours, eſpecially thoſe that were poor; none ever asked him any Thing, that was truly needy, but he ſupplied their Wants; neither was he ſevere to, or oppreſſed his poor Tenants, but on the contrary he would often forgive them their Rent, and help them in their Neceſſities, ſo that they have been enabled to over come their Hardſhips and Poverty, and to live well in the World; ſo that every one thought himſelf happy if he could get into any Part of his Eſtate to live, as if they were ſure to proſper.

This good gentleman married a very virtuous Gentlewoman, the Daughter of Mr. *Thomas Lovly* a very honeſt Gentleman in that Neighbourhood; by whom it pleaſed God to give him 12 Sons, and he had them baptized after the Names of *Jacob*'s 12 Sons; but it pleaſed God to take them all to himſelf, except *Benjamin*, his youngeſt Son, whoſe Birth was the Death of his Mother, to the great Grief of his Father.

This Mr. *Worthy* taking his Child to Church with him one *Sunday* in *June* laſt, the Parſon took his Text out of *Eccles.* Chap. xii. Ver. 1. *Remem-*

ber thy Creator in the Days of thy Youth, &c. Sermon being ended Mr. *Worthy* took his Son by the Hand, and leading him through the Church-yard, he happened to caſt his Eyes upon the Grave where his Wife and 11 Sons lay, which ſtruck ſuch a Damp on his Spirits that he went Home in a very melancholy Condition; and being return'd to his Houſe he lean'd upon his Elbow on a Table, with his Hand to his Head with Tears guſhing from his Eyes he was very mournful; but at length concluding his Grief, he uttered theſe Words, 'Well I ſhall go to them but they ſhall not come to me.' Now this Child *Benjamin* (tho' but ſix Years old) ſeeing his Father in a ſorrowful Condition, came to him with Tears in his Eyes ſaying, 'Pray, Father, 'tell me the Meaning of theſe Words, I ſhall go to them, but they ſhall not come to me ?.

This Queſtion much ſurprized the Father it coming from a Child ſo young; and being willing to reſolve him, made him this Reply, 'My dear 'Child becauſe thy Mother and Brethren being 'dead, their Bodies are turned to Duſt, and their 'Souls are gone to Heaven, to God that gave them, 'there to live with him in everlaſting Glory; ſo 'that it is impoſſible for them to come to us, but 'we muſt all die and our Bodies will turn to Duſt, 'and if we do well here on Earth, God well re-'ceive us into his Glory, ſo that we muſt go to 'them, but they'll not come to us.

Then ſaid the Child, 'Heaven! Pray, my dear 'Father, tell me what Heaven is?'

'My dear Child, ſays the Father, that is a 'Place of endleſs Joy and Filicity, where Chriſt 'ſits at the right Hand of God, in fulneſs of Glo-'ry; where there is no Sorrow, no Pain, nor 'Trouble, but all Tears are wiped away; where 'the Angels and Arch-angels, and all the Com-'pany of the heavenly Hoſt, as Saints and Mar-'tyrs, with the holy Prophets and Apoſtles, with 'the Cherubim and Seraphim are continually 'ſinging Praiſes, Hallelujahs, Hymns, Pſalms 'and ſpiritual Songs unto the King of Kings and 'Lord of Lords, who is God bleſſed for ever 'and ever.'

Then ſaid the Child, 'How do I long to be 'with God and my Brethren. I have often heard 'and read of Hell; pray Father, tell me what 'Place Hell is?

'My dear Child, ſaid the Father, Hell is a Place 'of endleſs Torment and Miſery, where all thoſe 'that forſake God's holy Laws, and keep not his 'holy Commandments are caſt into, ſuch as the 'Drunkard, Whoremonger, Adulterer, Swearer, 'Liar, and thoſe that make a mock of God's holy 'Word, without any Regard to the Rules of 'the Goſpel.'

Then the child hearing this fell on his knees and utter'd theſe expreſſions. 'O my God, I be-'ſeech thee give me thy grace, and ſo ingraft it 'into my heart, that I may always tread thoſe 'paths that lead to eternal life, and this I beg for 'Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. —— Pray, father, ſaid the 'child, now you have given me an account of the

'joys of heaven and the torments of hell, I desire 'you will direct me how I may enjoy the one and 'escape the other.

'My dear child, said the father, I shall do it 'to my great joy and comfort: to enjoy heaven 'and happiness you must observe these things. 'You must beg of God for his saving grace, al-'ways minding the goodness of God towards you; 'you must obey your parents and observe their 'counsel; keep to church constant; keep your 'tongue from evil speaking, from swearing and 'lying; to be true and just in all your affairs in 'the world; minding that there is a great God, 'that can and will punish all such as abuse his fa-'vour and goodness; also by reading the scrip-'ture often; and if you see your play-fellows do 'offend God, do not as they do, but keep close 'to God, he will never remove you nor forsake 'you.'

Then said the child, 'pray, father, is this all 'I must do to gain heaven.'

'My dear child, said the father, keep these 'things, and forget not to be constant and fer-'vent in prayer, then God will certainly reward 'you with heaven and happiness.'

It was observed that this child would not go out of the house to school or elsewhere, but he would ask God's protection; neither wonld he eat or drink without craving God's blessing there-on. This pious course of life he led 'till the 22d day of November last he was taken ill of a fever, and languish, 'till Sunday following.

All the time of his ſickneſs he applyed himſelf to prayer, meditation, ejaculation, and ſongs of praiſe to the lord moſt high; ſo that it ſeemed as if his ſoul was in heaven, whilſt his body was on earth. As his father and relations were ſtanding round his bed, on a ſudden he cryed out in a rapture of joy, ſaying, 'Now, my dear father, me 'thinks I hear the ſound of heavenly muſick in 'my ears, with the voice of Angels and Arch-'angels, and all the company of the heavenly 'hoſt calling for me then crying out O Lord, I 'come, I come! ſweet Jeſus receive my Spirit; 'be gave up the Ghoſt to the great Grief and Diſ-'ſatisfaction of his Father and all other Friends 'and Relations.

In three days after, all things were prepared for the funeral, and a ſermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Jones of the ſaid pariſh, he was interr'd in a vault with his mother and eleven brethren: His father with grief and trouble was ſo weak, that he could not go home without help, ſo that it pleaſed the miniſter, and two other gentlemen to accompany and aſſiſt him to be patient under his afflictions but could not comforr him ſo that Mr. Jones reſolved to lie with him that night in hopes he ſhould be able to put him out of that immoderate ſorrow, bnt he would often cry out, 'O my ſon *Benjamin*, would to God I was with thee!' This would he often cry out, 'till about twelve o'clock at night, caſting his eyes around he ſaw the Apparition of his Son, his youngeſt,

who turning to his Father ſaid, 'Father, as you 'always foretold me that there was a heavenly 'Reward for the Righteous and a Hell to torment 'the Wicked in everlaſting Burnings.'

'When my Spirit took it's Flight from the Bo-'dy, it was immediately tranſlated to ſuch a Place 'of Joy, as neither Tongue nor Pen can expreſs, 'as you have heretofore told me; them my Guide, 'led me to a Place of utter Darkneſs, there did I 'behold the vile Swearer, Drunkard, Extortioner, 'Adulterer, and many other heinous Sinners 'curſing the Day they were born, and the Womb 'that bare them; there the Devils were inſulting over them, upbraiding them with their Folly; 'and as ſure as this is true, ſo ſure you will die 'To morrow Night.

Next Day Mr. *Worthy* and the Rev. Mr. *Jones* declared the Truth of this Relation, he ſent for the two Church-wardens, and gave them a large Quantity of Corn to be diſtributed amongſt the Poor, as their Need ſhould require; and ordered all his Houſhold Goods and Hay to be ſold, and the Money to be diſtributed to charitable Uſes: Left Money for a Sermon to be preached one *Sunday* in every Month for ever; and to every Tenant he gave a Year's Rent, and having ſettled his earthly Eſtate, he like a juſt Steward, reſigned himſelf to the Will of his heavenly Maſter; and at Night, as his Son had fortold he gave up the Ghoſt. As he lived ſo he died, a truechriſtian a tender

Husband, an indulgent Father a good Neighbour, and to the Poor a charitable Benefactor. A Sermon was preached at his Funeral; the Text was taken from the 14 Chap. of St. Luke, Verſes 13, and 14. But when thou makeſt a Feaſt, call the Poor, the Maimed, the Lame, and the Blind, and thou ſhalt be bleſſed for they cannot recompence thee: For thou ſhalt be recompenced to the Reſurrection of the Juſt. Attested by

Richard King, Gent.

James Clark, } Church-wardens.
John Rogers, }

EPITAPH.

MOURN not dear friends for my deceaſe,
For I with Chriſt hath made my peace;
Life is uncertain, death is ſure,
Sin gave the wound, and Chriſt the cure.

FINIS.

Friendly Reader,

If that theſe weighty conſiderations ſhould be reckoned not worth laying out one penny, be pleas'd to read it gratis.